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Group Art Unit: 3671 Examiner: Mayo, Tara L. Dkt. No: PY374-SKIM

REPLACEMENT PAGE 1

METHOD, APPARATUS AND ACTUATABLE SKIMMER TAB FORMER FOR CREATING APERTURES AND SKIMMER TABS WITHIN PLASTIC PIPE AND PIPE PRODUCED THEREBY

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This application is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 09/524,238; filed on March 13, 2000 which is based upon Provisional Application Serial No.60/124,706, filed on March 15, 1999, NOW U.S. Patent No. 6,461,078 B1, Issued October 08, 2002, which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/998,351 filed on December 18, 1997 Now U.S. Patent 5,954,451; issued 09/21/99 which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/526,437 filed on September 11, 1995.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to systems for leaching liquid waste, particularly waste water. More particularly this invention relates to a specially designed cylindrical conduit or pipe for use in leaching systems.

Even more particularly the invention relates to cylindrical conduit which has apertures/skimmer tabs which may be created during the manufacture/forming/extrusion of the conduit or following such manufacture. The apertures/skimmer tabs may be created using pneumatics to actuate the perforator/skimmer tab former and punching the apertures and forming the skimmer tabs in cold plastic pipe, i.e., following the fabrication of the pipe.

Most particularly the invention is an apparatus, an actuatable perforator/skimmer tab former having three (3) edges which create a perforation and a skimmer tab (the perforator/skimmer tab) within cylindrical conduit and a method for perforating corrugated plastic pipe or smooth walled plastic pipe while the pipe is in the process of extrusion and which perforations are not cut from the material of the pipe but wherein the material is "rolled" or "transferred" to and made a part of the inner wall surface of the pipe and the pipe produced by this method.

Further and even most particularly the invention is an actuatable perforator/skimmer tab former which may be actuated to cause the perforation of the wall of pipe wherein the plastic of the portion being perforated is semi-molten as, for example during the forming of the pipe or caused to be made semi-molten after formation of the pipe such as, for example, by heating of the actuatable perforator/skimmer tab former thereby causing the plastic to be rolled rather than cut creating thereby a perforation and skimmer tab of predetermined and selected geometry and